

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An applicator for applying at least a partial coating of a solution to a filament, comprising:

an applicator surface operable to at least partially coat a filament with a solution;

a first reservoir operable to supply the solution to the applicator surface, a volume of the solution in the first reservoir corresponding to a solution level in the first reservoir;

a second reservoir operable to contain a supply of solution in fluid communication with the solution in the first reservoir such that the solution in the second reservoir has a solution level indicative of the solution level of the solution in the first reservoir; and

a detector for determining the solution level within the second reservoir, the detector operable to generate a signal to control an adjustment of the volume of the solution in the first reservoir.

2. (original) The applicator of claim 1, wherein the filament is a glass filament and the solution is a glass fiber sizing composition.

3. (original) The applicator of claim 1, wherein the detector is selected from an electrical detector, a mechanical detector, an energy wave detector, an ultrasonic detector, and a magnetic detector.

4. (original) The applicator of claim 1, wherein the detector is a non-surface contacting detector.
5. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 1, further comprising a flow controller positionable between a source of the solution and the first reservoir to permit flow of the solution from the source to the first reservoir, and wherein the detector is operable to generate a signal to the flow controller to control the flow of the solution to the first reservoir.
6. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 1, wherein the solution level in the first reservoir is maintained within a predetermined range of levels, wherein the first reservoir includes an overflow level, and wherein the predetermined range of levels is below the overflow level.

Claim 7 (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 1, wherein the applicator surface further comprises an endless belt rotatably supported by at least a first support and a second support, wherein the first support is at least partially positionable below the solution level of the first reservoir and the second support is positionable adjacent to a contact area between the applicator surface and the filament.

Claim 9 (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 1, further comprising shielding for covering the first reservoir and directing excess external liquid on the shielding away from the solution in the first reservoir, the shielding having an opening, wherein the applicator surface projects from the opening such that the filament is contactable with the applicator surface at the opening.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The applicator of claim ~~11~~ 10, wherein the filament is a glass filament and the solution is a glass fiber sizing composition.

13. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 10, wherein the shielding further comprises side walls and a top wall of the first reservoir, wherein at least one of the side walls includes an upper edge and the top wall includes a lower edge, and wherein a spacing between the upper edge and lower edge defines the opening.

14. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 10, wherein the shielding further comprises at least one wall defining a top wall of the first reservoir, the top wall further comprising a lower edge defining an upper end of the opening, and further

comprising a gutter positioned along the top wall in close proximity to the opening such that the gutter carries the external liquid away from the opening.

15. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 10, wherein the shielding further comprises at least one wall extending over the first reservoir, the at least one wall comprising a plurality of edges, wherein at least a portion of the plurality of edges define at least one edge of the opening.

16. (original) The applicator of claim 15, wherein the shielding further comprises a deflector positioned above the at least one wall and adjacent to the filament for directing excess liquid away from the opening.

17. (original) The applicator of claim 15, wherein at least a portion of the at least one wall extends over at least a portion of the applicator surface.

Claims 18-26 (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) A system for supplying and applying at least a partial coating of a solution to a filament, comprising:

- a main container operable to supply a solution;
- a local reservoir in fluid communication with the main container for receiving the solution from the main container, a volume of the solution in the local reservoir corresponding to a solution level in the local reservoir;
- an applicator surface operable to receive the solution from the local reservoir and apply an at least partial coating of the solution to the filament;
- an auxiliary reservoir operable to contain a supply of solution in fluid communication with the solution in the local reservoir such that the solution in the auxiliary reservoir has a solution level indicative of the solution level of the solution in the local reservoir;
- a flow controller positionable between the main container and the local reservoir to control a flow of solution from the main container to the local reservoir; and
- a detector for monitoring the solution level within the auxiliary reservoir, wherein the detector is operable to generate a signal to the flow controller in response to the monitored solution level of the auxiliary reservoir.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 27, further comprising shielding for covering the local reservoir and directing excess external liquid on the shielding away from the solution in the local reservoir, the shielding having an opening, wherein the applicator surface projects from the opening such that the filament is contactable with the applicator surface.

29. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~28~~ 27, wherein the detector is a non-surface contacting detector.

30. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~29~~ 27, wherein the filament is a glass filament and the solution is a glass fiber sizing composition.

31. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~30~~ 27, wherein the local reservoir includes an overflow level corresponding to a height of the reservoir such that any solution exceeding the overflow level is prevented from returning to the local reservoir, wherein the solution level in the local container is maintained within a predetermined range of levels, and wherein the predetermined range of levels is below the overflow level.

32. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~30~~ 27, wherein the applicator surface further comprises an endless belt rotatably supported by at least a first support and a second support, wherein the first support is at least partially positionable below the solution level and the second support is positionable adjacent to a contact area between the applicator surface and the filament, wherein the solution level in the local container is maintained within a predetermined range of levels, and wherein the predetermined range of levels is such that the applicator surface exits the solution at a constant angle when the solution level of the reservoirs is within the predetermined range of levels.

Claims 33-40 (cancelled).

41. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 1, wherein the applicator surface further comprises a single roller, wherein the single roller is at least partially submerged below the solution level of the first container.

42. (previously presented) The system of claim 27, wherein the applicator surface further comprises a single roller, wherein the single roller is at least partially submerged below the solution level of the local container.

43. (currently amended) An applicator for applying at least a partial coating of a solution to a filament, comprising:

an applicator surface operable to at least partially coat a filament with a solution;

a first volume of solution having a top surface corresponding to a solution level of the first volume, the first volume of the solution in communication with at least a portion of the applicator surface;

a second volume of the solution having a top surface corresponding to a solution level of the second volume and separate from the top surface of the first volume, the solution level of the second volume being indicative of the solution level of the first volume; and

a detector for determining the solution level of the second volume of the solution, the detector operable to generate a signal to control an adjustment of the first volume of the solution.

44. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 43, wherein the detector is selected from an electrical detector, a mechanical detector, an energy wave detector, an ultrasonic detector, and a magnetic detector.

45. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 43, wherein the detector is a non-surface contacting detector.

46. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 43, further comprising a flow controller positionable between a source of the solution and the first volume of solution to permit flow of the solution from the source to increase the first volume solution, and wherein the detector is operable to generate a signal to the flow controller to control the flow of the solution to the first volume of solution.

47. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 43, further comprising shielding for directing excess external liquid on the shielding away from the solution in the first volume, the shielding having an opening, wherein the applicator surface projects from the opening such that the filament is contactable with the applicator surface.

48. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 43, wherein the first and the second volumes of solution are in separate containers.

Claim 49 (cancelled)

50. (previously presented) The applicator of claim 43, wherein the applicator surface further comprises a single roller, wherein the single roller is at least partially submerged below the top surface of the first volume of the solution.

51. (New) The applicator of claim 1, wherein any solution exceeding a height of the first reservoir does not return to the first reservoir.

52. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein any solution exceeding a height of the local reservoir does not return to the local reservoir.

53 (New) The applicator of claim 48, wherein any portion of the first volume of solution that exceeds a height of the container for the first volume of solution does not return to the container for the first volume of solution.